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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-eighth session
Item 114 of the preliminary list*
REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, QUESTIONS RELATING TO REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 9 April 1993 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the aide mémoire of the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on the refugee problem in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 114 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIC
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/48/50.

ANNEX

Aide mémoire on the refugee problem in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia takes this opportunity to advise of a very difficult situation in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, particularly in the social field, owing to a large number of refugees who have found shelter in Yugoslavia and whose number is increasing every day. Since the beginning of the Yugoslav crisis, which culminated in armed conflicts, first in Croatia and then in Bosnia and Herzegovina, over half a million of refugees arrived in the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, with all the economic, social and other consequences of such a process.

Through an organized society-wide action, all necessary measures have been taken in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the past period to alleviate and resolve these problems. However, these problems are becoming ever more difficult to resolve not only because of a large and increasing number of refugees but also because of the limitations faced by Yugoslavia and its population in their capabilities to provide humanitarian aid in a very difficult economic situation as a consequence of, among other things, the unfair sanctions imposed on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. When these sanctions were established nobody questioned the humaneness of imposing severe economic and other sanctions on a country and a people taking upon themselves the humane obligation to provide shelter to such a large number of refugees. Besides, political factors do play an enormous role also in the humanitarian field, so that international assistance extended to refugees in the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, especially bilateral assistance, is incomparably smaller than the assistance arriving in other parts of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and is determined in great measure by political interests, as if the refugees in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia were not the victims of the one and the same conflict.

This unequal position of more than half a million refugees - Serbs, Croats, Muslims and members of other peoples - is certainly unfavourably affected by the media discrimination against Serbs and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia systematically pursued in many countries all over the world. During the armed conflict in Croatia, for instance, the world public was not informed at all that over 250,000 Serbs had been forced to leave their ancestral homes to seek refuge in Serbia. The exodus of the Serb people in western Slavonia was never characterized as "ethnic cleansing" and the fact that the number of Serbs in Zagreb and other Croatian towns has been reduced under pressure by more than half has never been assessed as a violation of their fundamental human rights.

Even more discriminated against are the Serbs who were forced to flee the horrors of the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The world public is overwhelmed with the news of the tragic fate of Muslim and Croat refugees, while only a few world agencies have reported on hundreds of thousands of Serbs who fled the devastation and other war horrors and came to Serbia, Montenegro and parts of Krajina.

We, therefore, expect from international humanitarian organizations, consistent with the principles of neutrality, impartiality and the non-political character of their activity, to contribute to an objective presentation of the humanitarian problems with which Yugoslavia is dramatically faced.

(1) At the moment there are about 655,000 refugees in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, 585,000 in the territory of the Republic of Serbia and 70,000 in the Republic of Montenegro. This number is augmented by 150,000 to 200,000 of other refugees in Serbia and 10,000 in Montenegro who are not registered with the competent authorities. This number is not final since up to 1,000 new refugees arrive in Serbia every day.

As to nationality structure, the most numerous refugees in Serbia are Serbs (84.2 per cent), Muslims (6.2 per cent) and Croats (1.6 per cent). The remaining 8 per cent accounts for Albanian, Jewish, Bulgarian, Romany and Hungarian refugees. There is an equal number of Muslim, Serb and Montenegrin refugees in Montenegro.

All refugees in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia are provided a collective protection of personal and other rights and freedoms, as well as international legal protection, in the way provided for the citizens of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The refugees unable to find board and accommodation with relatives, friends or with other citizens are provided board and accommodation in collective facilities. Within the limits of the capacities of the country, the refugees accommodated within families are granted monthly assistance in food, items of personal hygiene, clothes and footwear. The token financial assistance to which refugees are otherwise entitled is not paid, since it is not possible to provide financial resources for that purpose.

The financial allocations of the Yugoslav Federal and Republican organs to meet the needs of a large number of refugees, as well as the assistance of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), have proved insufficient.

The situation and status of the refugees in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is further aggravated by the United Nations sanctions. These sanctions have been draining the Yugoslav economy for nine months now, so that a large number of economic activities are at the verge of existence. In comparison to 1991, the social product has plummeted drastically, which aggravates the social and economic position of the population, especially the most vulnerable groups. Out of 2,300,000 people employed in the economy of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in normal conditions, 800,000 or one third of the overall number have been laid off, with wages and salaries reduced to 70 per cent of the normal pay.

The very precise data contained in the latest "United Nations Revised Inter-agency Appeal for the former Yugoslavia, April to December 1993", are further evidence of the difficult refugee situation in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

This situation stretches the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia beyond the point of endurance with regard to providing housing for the refugees and handling their problems. On the other hand, the international community has shifted the brunt of the burden of caring for refugees onto the shoulders of the citizens of Yugoslavia. Until two months ago, only 10 to 15 per cent of the overall refugee needs was provided by international humanitarian organizations. This percentage has recently increased to about 30 per cent, owing primarily to the additional efforts of UNHCR, the Humanitarian Bureau of the European Community, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Belgian branch of "Médecins sans frontières" and some others.

Bilateral assistance, which otherwise is the main source of financing refugees in Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Slovenia, is almost non-existent in Yugoslavia.

(2) The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia wishes in particular to point to the very difficult situation of refugee children and women refugees. There are about 250,000 refugee children in Yugoslavia, 1,200 of them without both parents. The situation of children, as a population category in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, particularly refugee children, has worsened as a consequence of economic sanctions. In a warring environment, the social climate in which children are being raised is such as to provide fertile ground for many diseases, including mental illnesses and traumas. The situation of children in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and, by the same token, the position of refugee children, is seriously affected also by the endangered rights to the highest level of health and medical care, to quality food, social protection, etc. There is a lack of food, medicine and spare parts for medical equipment, heating oil for schools and hospitals, so that child mortality is rising.

In addition to refugee children, women refugees, particularly women with children, are also facing a difficult situation. That the number of women refugees is large is evidenced by the fact that as much as 83 per cent of all adult refugees in Serbia are women. This population group is additionally endangered because of their ill-treatment and rape in war zones.

(3) The Yugoslav Government wishes to use this opportunity in particular to draw attention to the specific situation faced by refugees in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. They are an example of mass exile unknown thus far either to UNHCR/and international humanitarian organizations or to Yugoslav authorities, considering the fact that 96.9 per cent of all refugees have either private or public accommodation. The exceptionally difficult livelihood of many families compels refugees, an estimated 250,000 to 300,000, to look for their housing themselves. It is quite certain that many of them will try to find a solution by emigrating to other, primarily Western, countries. One of the solutions is the provision of shelters for family accommodation of refugees. In close cooperation with UNHCR, an adaptation and construction project for refugee accommodation has been initiated. However, the overall project provides for the accommodation of only 8,000 people. Owing to the exceptionally difficult economic situation brought about by economic sanctions, Yugoslavia is unable to finance this project alone. If the international community fails to provide

assistance, a large number of refugees will be forced to look for their own solutions, most probably by emigrating to other countries.

The specific nature of the refugee population in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia will require that the Yugoslav authorities, in identifying their overall needs, ask for assistance from international humanitarian organizations with a view to ensuring long-term solutions to their problems.

The Yugoslav Government wishes also to point to the existence of a large number of the citizens of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, estimated at about 400,000, living as refugees in many countries of Europe. Their stay in these countries will necessitate the solution of a large number of humanitarian problems. In order to ensure their return to Yugoslavia, it will be necessary to seek solutions through bilateral and multilateral cooperation and through concerted action.

(4) The Yugoslav Government is aware that the refugee problems will be present in this region long after the cessation of the armed conflicts. Bearing in mind the relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly, the conclusions of the London stage of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia and the decisions taken in various international meetings devoted to the victims of the conflict, the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia calls upon UNHCR and other international humanitarian organizations, in addition to the emergency relief assistance already provided and drawing upon their long-standing international experience in the field, to assist the competent Yugoslav authorities in finding a lasting solution to the problems of refugees and other persons affected by war and military operations. Accordingly, the Yugoslav Government interprets the definition of the term "refugee", embodied in numerous United Nations documents, in the broadest possible sense.

For the purpose of finding a long-term solution to the problem of refugees, the Yugoslav Government calls upon UNHCR and, as appropriate, other international non-governmental organizations, drawing upon the experiences and resources of all relevant international agencies, to engage in:

(a) Providing assistance for the reintegration of refugees remaining in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, which would include assistance in the realization of development projects and other long-term forms of material assistance and in devising various ways of continued activity in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. This should include assistance aimed at continuing the refugee settlements adaptation and construction project, and assistance in meeting the essential needs in the education, health and social protection of refugees;

(b) Providing assistance to facilitate return to their homes for those refugees who so wish after the cessation of military operations. Here we particularly have in mind the assistance in establishing normal flows of life within the so-called "emergency development" programme. In this context, the Yugoslav Government urges UNHCR to take part in the work of the existing and future intergovernmental committees for the return of refugees which will deal with those problems between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Macedonia;

(c) We also expect UNHCR to take, within the overall treatment of refugees in Yugoslavia, appropriate action in order to ensure that the refugees who fulfil the necessary conditions be granted the refugee status under the 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol on the Status of Refugees.

The Yugoslav Government takes this opportunity to bring the attention of international humanitarian organizations to the fact that the Security Council Committee established pursuant to Council resolution 724 (1991) concerning Yugoslavia decided to approve import of oil and natural gas into the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia for humanitarian purposes, if a recognized international humanitarian organization urdertook to sponsor it. Since no association has so far indicated its intention to do so, we appeal to numerous international humanitarian organizations present in this region to help the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia alleviate the difficult humanitarian problems also through these imports.

The Yugoslav Government is aware that a final and durable solution of the refugee problem, as well as many other related problems, can be found only in the conditions of peace, respect for human rights and the right to democratic development. Therefore, the Yugoslav Government, in addition to the appeal to the international community to render urgent and long-term assistance in solving difficult humanitarian refugee problems in the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia mentioned in the present aide mémoire, calls also on this occasion upon all international factors to invest further efforts in order to assess objectively the entire problem in the territory of the former Yugoslavia and arrive at its just solution by peaceful means. Only this would bring peace and prosperity to all people in this region.

Belgrade, April 1993

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
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Item 71 of the preliminary list*
GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 12 April 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the declaration, issued on 7 April 1993, by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria in connection with the decision of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to withdraw from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex distributed as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 71 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Slavi PASHOVSKI
Permanent Representative of Bulgaria
to the United Nations

* A/48/50.

ANNEX

Declaration issued on 7 April 1993 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria in connection with the decision of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to withdraw from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria expresses its grave concern at the decision of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to withdraw from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria considers the NPT as a cornerstone of the global non-proliferation regime with respect to nuclear weapons. The wide membership of the NPT is an indication of the great importance that the international community attaches to this legally binding instrument being of vital importance for international security. The concerted actions to strengthen the non-proliferation regime are one of the major avenues of the efforts to eliminate the potential danger to peace and stability stemming from the spread of nuclear or other weapons of mass destruction. The strict and unconditional implementation of the NPT and of the respective International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards agreements under the Treaty is a basic prerequisite for ensuring the viability and the stabilizing role of the non-proliferation regime. Any development that contravenes these collective efforts would inevitably produce a negative effect.

In this context, the decision of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to withdraw from the NPT is a cause of serious concern and justified anxiety within the international community. The step taken may have unpredictable consequences not only for regional security but also for international peace and security as a whole.

As a member of the IAEA Board of Governors, the Republic of Bulgaria expresses its full confidence in and support for the activities of the Agency, including its inspection procedures, as well as the resolutions of the Board of Governors of 25 February, 18 March and 1 April 1993, which refer the issue to the Security Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations and call upon the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to fulfil its obligations under the NPT and the IAEA Safeguards Agreement.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria associates itself entirely with the Declaration of 1 April 1993 of the Governments of the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, which are the depositaries of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria calls upon the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to continue its dialogue with IAEA, rendering the necessary assistance to the Agency for the purpose of the implementation of the provisions of the Safeguards Agreement.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria expresses its hope that the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will reconsider its decision and will continue to adhere to its legal international obligations under the NPT and to follow strictly the provisions of the Safeguards Agreement of IAEA.

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Forty-eighth session
Item 115 (b) of the preliminary list*

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

Letter dated 7 April 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text in English and French of a statement on Suriname issued by the European Community and its member States on 5 April 1993 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 115 (b) of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Bent HAAKONSEN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Denmark
to the United Nations

* A/48/50.

ANNEX

Statement on Suriname issued on 5 April 1993 by the European Community and its member States

The European Community and its member States are seriously concerned at recent developments in Suriname in connection with the appointment by the Surinamese Government of a new commander of the armed forces. They reiterate their full support for the President of the Republic of Suriname, Mr. R. R. Venetiaan, and his Government and recall that subordination of the armed forces to civil authority is of prime importance for the strengthening and consolidation of democracy and the rule of law.

The European Community and its member States strongly urge all those concerned fully to respect those principles. Any infringement of those principles could not but have negative consequences for cooperation between the European Community and Suriname.

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13 April 1993

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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 13 April 1993 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of the declaration made by the Government of Turkey in connection with the joint statement of the depositary Governments of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons concerning the withdrawal of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea from the said Treaty (S/25515, annex).

I would be very grateful if you could have this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 71 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Tahsin BURCUOĞLU
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

* A/48/50.

ANNEX

Declaration by the Government of Turkey

The Government of Turkey associates itself with the joint statement of the depositary Governments of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons of 1968 a/ concerning the withdrawal of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea from the said Treaty (S/25515, annex).

The Government of Turkey wishes to underline, in this context, that all the countries that have not yet done so should become parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and that all the parties to the Treaty should fully observe their obligations arising under the Treaty.

The Government of Turkey reiterates its stronghold view that relevant steps should be taken as early as possible for the further strengthening of the verification regime of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in order to prevent the violation of obligations under the Treaty through an effective international control and monitoring system.

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-eighth session
Item 80 of the preliminary list*
MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 13 April 1993 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Mr. A. V. Kozyrev (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 80 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Y. VORONTSOV

* A/48/50.

ANNEX

Letter dated 8 April 1993 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing to you on a matter which, as a result the events of recent years, has become one of the urgent priority tasks facing the international community.

I am referring to the pernicious influence of armed conflicts on the humanitarian climate of our planet. I fully support the efforts of the United Nations and your own personal contribution towards averting and settling conflicts, but in this letter I should like to focus on the human dimension of the problem.

The expanding geographical scope of armed conflicts, as well as the ever-increasing bitterness of the fighting, which results in enormous losses, above all among the civilian population, give cause for alarm. It is particularly sad that use is being made against the civilian population of types of weapons which may have indiscriminate effects such as: aircraft, anti-personnel mines, missiles and artillery, igniting mixtures, rocket salvo systems and poisonous substances.

In places where the lines of military confrontation are drawn on the basis of ethnicity and religious belief, the taking of hostages, violence, plunder, looting, open terror and mass deportations are common practices. Religious and cultural facilities and the means of livelihood are brutally destroyed. The recruitment and use of mercenaries is practised and criminal elements and even children are drawn into the war. Recently formed armed forces, which have a very vague idea of the laws and customs of war and the elementary rules governing the treatment of prisoners of war and civilians, are actively engaged in present-day conflicts.

Russia holds an honoured place in the history of diplomacy and international law as one of the first to advocate the humanization of the military sphere. Following these traditions of mercy, democratic Russia sees it as its duty to urge the international community to intensify its efforts to protect the victims of both international and internal conflicts.

Among the most immediate tasks facing the international community in this area is the establishment of an atmosphere of active rejection and resolute condemnation of any violations of international humanitarian law. The most powerful political and diplomatic impetus in this direction could be provided by the Security Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations. Such efforts might include a review of the work being done to bring into force the mechanism for combating the use of mercenaries provided for in the Convention drawn up and adopted under United Nations auspices in 1989. In the Russian Federation work has begun on the procedures for adherence to this important international instrument and we call upon all States in the world, in the light of the tragic events of recent times, once again to consider making it a universal code of international rules with a view to putting an end to the dangerous phenomenon of the use of mercenaries.

We believe that the United Nations could give an impetus to international cooperation by restricting the permissible parameters for military action, for instance by expanding the list of civilian installations, attacks on which must, in every case, be regarded as a military crime. These installations might include, for example, humanitarian aid convoys, corridors for the delivery of such aid, localities where there are mass concentrations of refugees and the means of transport for their conveyance, and food supplies.

A key question of humanitarian law is responsibility for crimes against the civilian population, the wounded and prisoners of war.

The Russian Federation supports efforts to establish a special international tribunal in connection with crimes committed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia. We recently transmitted proposals regarding the establishment and effective functioning of such an organ.

In the context of the problem of putting an end to military crimes, the work being carried out by the International Law Commission with a view to the early establishment of a permanent international criminal court takes on practical significance. It would be useful to recommend that the International Law Commission should pursue on a more practical level its related work on the drafting of a code of crimes against the peace and security of mankind.

Priority must be given to the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms and respect for the honour and dignity of the human being everywhere and always, even within the sound of bursting shells and whistling bullets. Humanism and mercy must prevail where today the ideas of military necessity and the desire to inflict the maximum number of casualties on the enemy dominate.

The Russian Federation is prepared to make its contribution to this noble task and intends to make additional comments with a view to easing the plight of the victims of armed conflicts on the basis of the strengthening of the international legal regime for their protection.

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A/48/139
15 April 1993
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

Forty-eighth session
Item 92 (a) of the preliminary list*

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION:
TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Note verbale dated 13 April 1993 from the Permanent Mission of Panama to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Panama to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to transmit herewith the Declaration on Bananas issued by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama on 2 April 1993 in Panama City (see annex).

The Permanent Mission of Panama would be grateful if you would have this note and the annex hereto circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 92 (a) of the preliminary list.

* A/48/50.

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ANNEX

Declaration on Bananas

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Nicaragua, Colombia and Ecuador agree:

1. To recall the decision adopted by the Presidents of the banana-producing countries, on 11 February 1993 in the city of Santiago de Guayaquil, to reject the new regime imposed by the European Economic Community governing the importation of bananas into the Common Market as constituting a violation of the principles of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and as having serious consequences for the economies and workers of our countries;

2. To reaffirm the common, steadfast and consistent endeavours by the Latin American banana producers to liberalize the market for bananas, within the context of GATT;

3. To reject the European Community proposal to seek to compensate for economic and social harm through the establishment of a compensation fund, the coverage provided by which would not compensate in any way for the harm that will be caused by the new banana regime;

4. To maintain the unity of the Latin American producers in the face of possible measures to undermine that unity such as the granting of individual preferences to countries and the application of the norms of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade in a discriminatory manner.

Done at Panama City, on 2 April 1993.

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-eighth session
Items 34, 35, 42, 55, 79, 86,
92 and 149 of the preliminary list*
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
QUESTION OF PALESTINE
THE SITUATION IN BOSNIA AND
HERZEGOVINA
CONSEQUENCES OF THE IRAQI
OCCUPATION OF AND AGGRESSION
AGAINST KUWAIT
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE DECLARATION ON THE
STRENGTHENING OF INERNATIONAL
SECURITY
REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE
TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES
AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF
THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND OTHER
ARABS OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES
DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC COOPERATION
REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE
ON THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED
NATIONS AND ON THE STRENGTHENING
OF THE ROLE OF THE ORGANIZATION

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 14 April 1993 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government I have the honour to transmit herewith, in the Arabic language, the communiqué issued by the Ministerial Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council at its forty-sixth session, held at Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on 4 and 5 April 1993 (see annex).

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* A/48/50.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 34, 35, 42, 55, 79, 86, 92 and 149 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ali Thani AL-SUWAIDI
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

ANNEX

Communiqué issued by the Ministerial Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council at its forty-sixth session, held at Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on 4 and 5 April 1993

The Ministerial Council held its forty-sixth session on Sunday and Monday, 4 and 5 April 1993 (12 and 13 Shawwal 1413) at Riyadh under the chairmanship of His Excellency Mr. Rashid Abdullah al-Nuaimi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates, and with the following in attendance:

- His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed Bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bahrain;

- His Royal Highness Prince Saud al-Faisal, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia;

- His Excellency Mr. Yousef Bin Alawi Bin Abdulla, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Oman;

- His Excellency Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Jaber Al Thani, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Qatar;

- His Excellency Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kuwait.

The Council began its meeting by welcoming His Excellency Sheikh Fahim Bin Sultan al-Qasimi as Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, wishing him every success in his new functions. The Council expressed its high appreciation of the great efforts made by His Excellency Abdalla Yaccoub Bishara, former Secretary-General of the Council, and for his contribution of much effort, time and expertise and wished him every success in whatever functions might be entrusted to him in the future.

The Ministerial Council reviewed developments in the regional and international situation and noted with extreme concern that the Iraqi regime was continuing its threats to the independence and security of Kuwait, repeating its attacks on and violations of the integrity of the international boundary between the two countries, endangering peace and stability in the region and continuing to follow a policy of prevarication and procrastination in the implementation of Security Council resolutions relating to its aggression against Kuwait.

The Council vehemently condemns the aggressive policies and practices of the Iraqi regime against Kuwait and its efforts to evade its international obligations under the terms of the cease-fire. It reaffirms its constant position on the necessity of Iraq's implementation of all the Security Council resolutions relating to its aggression against Kuwait and all the provisions of resolution 687 (1991) relating to the release of imprisoned and detained Kuwaitis and nationals of third States, the demarcation of the boundary, payment of compensation, acceleration of the return of all stolen property and facilitation of the work of the international inspections teams entrusted with the task of eliminating all weapons of mass destruction. The Council calls upon

the international community to continue the pressure on the Iraqi regime in order that it may desist from its course of expansionist aggression and comply fully with all the resolutions of international legitimacy.

The Council expresses profound satisfaction at the adoption of Security Council resolution 806 (1993), providing for the strengthening of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) and the extension of its terms of reference and reaffirming the Security Council's guarantee of the inviolability of the international boundary between Kuwait and Iraq. The Council reaffirms its wholehearted desire for the unity and territorial integrity of Iraq. The Iraqi regime bears full responsibility for the acts of bloody violence and any other human suffering to which the Iraqi people has been exposed as a result of that regime's refusal to implement Security Council resolutions 706 (1991) and 712 (1991) concerning Iraq's requirements of foodstuffs and medicines.

The Council reviewed new developments in relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran and the issue of the three islands of Abu Musa, the Greater Tunb and the Lesser Tunb belonging to the United Arab Emirates. It expressed extreme regret and concern at the unacceptable conditions set by the Iranian side for the resumption of talks on the three islands, which encroach on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the United Arab Emirates, and Iran's refusal to go along with the efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in this regard.

The Ministerial Council stresses its censure and total rejection of Iran's claims to the island of Abu Musa and the measures taken by it, which it regards as a threat to security and stability in the region. The Council reiterates its call to the Islamic Republic of Iran to rescind the measures taken by it in respect of the island and to end its occupation of the islands of the Greater Tunb and the Lesser Tunb, because the continuation of that situation will have negative repercussions on relations between the two sides, constitute a threat to security and stability in the region and increase tension there.

The Council recalls the statement in the Final Communiqué of the Abu Dhabi Summit that the development of relations between the two sides is linked to the consolidation of trust between them and to the implementation by the Islamic Republic of Iran of steps that would conform to its adhesion to the principles of good neighbourliness and respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the States of the region and the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of States. It reaffirms its solidarity with and full support for the stand adopted by the United Arab Emirates and its support for all peaceful measures and means which it may deem appropriate to restore its sovereignty over its three islands, on the basis of international legitimacy and the principle of collective security.

The Ministerial Council also studied developments in the Middle East peace process and reaffirmed the commitment of its member States to supporting peace negotiations aimed at arrival at a just, lasting and comprehensive solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the question of Palestine based on Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973), the achievement of total Israeli withdrawal from the Arab occupied territories, including Jerusalem, the guaranteeing of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people,

including its right to self-determination, and the establishment of sound foundations to ensure security and stability in the region.

The Ministerial Council commends the efforts being made by the sponsors of the Conference, particularly the affirmation by President Clinton's Administration of the absolute commitment of the United States of America to the peace process, its assumption of a role of full participation and its endeavour to overcome the obstacles holding up the momentum of the talks.

The Council vehemently condemns the Israeli side's violation of the rights of Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories and its practices involving the most repugnant kinds of terrorism, oppression, murder, the taking of innocent lives, particularly those of children, demolition of homes, the continuation of settlement operations in the occupied Arab territories and the deportation of more than 400 Palestinians from their land, in violation of the fourth Geneva Convention. It calls upon the Security Council to take action to ensure the implementation of resolution 799 (1992) concerning the return of the Palestinian deportees to their land.

The Ministerial Council is also following developments in the situation in Somalia and expresses its satisfaction at the fact that the Somali parties have arrived at a national reconciliation agreement. It reaffirms the support of the States members of the Council for the Somali side and calls upon the international community to continue supporting the efforts being made to restore security and stability to that fraternal country, so that it may resume the course of construction and development and play its positive role at the Arab and the international levels.

The Ministerial Council welcomes the Peace Accord in Afghanistan arrived at by the Afghan Mujahidin factions in the blessed month of Ramadan. The Council commends the constructive efforts made by Saudi Arabia as represented in the noble and sincere endeavours made by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud, who invited the Mujahidin to renounce their disputes and come to Makkah for a reconciliation. It also appreciates the positive and continuous efforts made by Pakistan to this end. The Council congratulates the leaders and people of Afghanistan on reconciliation and the return of security and stability to this fraternal Muslim country and voices its expectation that Afghanistan will enter on a new phase of stability and peace that will enable it to make up for lost time in its development for the good and prosperity of the Afghan people.

The Ministerial Council has followed with deep concern the continuation of the grievous human tragedy of the people of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, resulting from the continuation by the irregular Serbian forces, supported by Serbia and Montenegro, of their heinous aggression in violation of United Nations covenants and international law and in defiance of international legitimacy.

The Ministerial Council vehemently condemns the Serbian aggression against the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the commission by Serbian forces of the most repugnant crimes of ethnic cleansing and of slaughter, organized looting, terrorism, displacement, starvation and the destruction of homes and places of worship and calls upon the Security Council to take all necessary

steps, including the lifting of the arms embargo imposed on the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, to enable it to exercise the right of self-defence and resort to military force on the basis of Chapter VII, Article 42, of the United Nations Charter, with a view to restoring international peace and security, compelling the forces of aggression to comply with the resolutions of international legitimacy, depriving the aggressors of any rewards by preventing any change in the demographic composition or the acquisition of territorial gains and forcing the Serbian forces to withdraw and respect the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In this connection, the Council welcomes the Security Council's adoption of its resolution providing for the use of military force to down Serbian aircraft that violate the no-fly zone in the airspace of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina as a step in the right direction. The Council also expresses its satisfaction at the adoption last February of the Security Council resolution setting up an international tribunal for the prosecution of persons responsible for crimes against humanity in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in accordance with the Geneva Conventions. The Ministerial Council urges the international community to strengthen penalties and redouble pressures on Serbia and Montenegro.

The Council reviewed the minutes of the meeting of the Standing Committee on Petroleum Cooperation and welcomes its recommendations. Proceeding from the belief of the States members of the Council in the importance of the endeavour to guarantee freedom of international trade and to eliminate and ease restrictions on its flow, and in view of the major importance of the power sector generally, and petroleum in particular, in international trade, the Ministerial Council welcomed the conference of Petroleum Ministers of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and non-member producing States to be held at Muscat on 13 April 1993. It expressed the hope that the Conference would produce effective means of preventing an increase in the tax burden on petroleum and petroleum derivatives, imposed primarily in the major consumer States, inasmuch as such a tax increase would be an impediment to international trade. The Ministerial Council affirmed in this connection the resolve of the States members of the Council to continue negotiations with the major consumer States in order to protect the vital interests of the States members of the Council and strengthen international trade.

In the context of talks between States members of the Council and economic groups, the Council approved the holding of a new round of talks with Japan in June 1993. The Council welcomes the conference of businessmen from the States members of the Council and their counterparts from the United States to be held on 20 and 21 April 1993, and the Council agreed that the secretariat should consult with the United States Government in order to set the date for the forthcoming round of talks. On the subject of the relations of the States members of the Council with the European Community, the Ministerial Council approved the holding of a new round of trade negotiations on 15 and 16 April 1993. The Ministerial Council also discussed the topics to be brought before the next meeting of the Ministerial Council, to be held jointly with the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Council and the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the European Community, to be held at Brussels on 11 May 1993.

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Forty-eighth session

REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ITEM IN THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION

OBSERVER STATUS FOR THE ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Letter dated 8 April 1993 from the representatives of the Permanent Missions of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to address Your Excellency, upon instructions from our Governments, which are members of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), to request, in accordance with rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion in the provisional agenda of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly of an item entitled "Observer status for the Economic Cooperation Organization in the General Assembly".

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum concerning the request is annexed to this letter.

(Signed) Abdul Rahim GHAFOORZAI
Ambassador and Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Islamic State of Afghanistan
to the United Nations

(Signed) Hassan Aziz Ogly HASSANOV
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of the Azerbaijani Republic
to the United Nations

(Signed) Gholamali KHOSHROO
Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative
of the Islamic Republic of Iran
to the United Nations

(Signed) Akmaral K. ARYSTANBEKOVA
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Kazakhstan
to the United Nations

(Signed) Djoumakadyr A. ATABEKOV
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan
to the United Nations

(Signed) Jamsheed K. A. MARKER
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
to the United Nations

(Signed) Lakim KAYUMOV
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Tajikistan
to the United Nations

(Signed) Mustafa AKSIN
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of Turkey to the United Nations

(Signed) Amangeldy RAKHMANOV
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of Turkmenistan to the United Nations

(Signed) Farid A. MAQSUDI
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Republic
of Uzbekistan to the United Nations

ANNEX

Explanatory memorandum

The Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan and Turkey, in a summit meeting held in 1964, decided to set up a regional organization for economic development. This decision was later formalized in the form of the Treaty of Izmir, which was, in turn, amended in 1990 to change the name from Regional Cooperation for Development to the Economic Cooperation Organization. Recently, in a meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Organization, held at Islamabad on 28 November 1992, the States of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan formally acceded to the Treaty of Izmir. The Republic of Tajikistan has since become a member of the Economic Cooperation Organization. Thus, the Organization now has 10 members.

The Economic Cooperation Organization has the following as its objectives:

(a) To expand trade among member States by providing free access to each other's market;

(b) To promote in each member State conditions for sustained economic growth in order to achieve continuous improvement in the standard of living of the people;

(c) To consolidate cultural affinities and spiritual and fraternal ties that bind the people of the member States through social and cultural channels of thought and action; and

(d) To contribute to the growth of world trade and to strive to remove iniquitous trading policies resulting in adverse terms of trade for the developing countries, by evolving a common approach in international forums.

As a regional organization representing 10 members, the member States of the Economic Cooperation Organization are convinced that their organization will benefit greatly by having an observer relationship with the United Nations and will also make a positive collective contribution to the activities of the United Nations.

Accordingly, the Economic Cooperation Organization requests that it be granted observer status to the General Assembly of the United Nations on terms similar to those that have been prescribed in respect of other regional associations of States.

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REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ITEM IN THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION

UNITED NATIONS INITIATIVE ON OPPORTUNITY AND PARTICIPATION

Letter dated 28 April 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

It is an honour and pleasure for me to submit to you, on behalf of the Government of Papua New Guinea, its request, in accordance with rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, for inclusion in the provisional agenda of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, of an item entitled "United Nations Initiative on Opportunity and Participation".

Like their counterparts in other developing countries, the people and Government of Papua New Guinea, on whose behalf the proposal was first raised during the general debate of the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, last October, have first-hand experience of the difficulties that limit economic opportunity and participation.

We are aware and appreciative of the work being carried out by the United Nations, particularly in the context of the Fourth United Nations Development Decade and preparation of the proposed agenda for development, to identify, publicize and deal with the international aspects.

We also believe that it is particularly appropriate to seek support for the establishment of a panel of eminent and experienced persons to study and report on opportunity and participation in the economies of developing countries as follows:

(a) During the year immediately following the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

(b) During the International Year for the World's Indigenous Peoples;

(c) During the year preceding the forthcoming World Summit for Social Development, the International Conference on Population and Development and the Global Conference on Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

The people and the Government of Papua New Guinea, therefore, respectfully seek support from Members of the United Nations for inclusion of the proposed item in the agenda of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly. In addition, we respectfully request that the item be allocated for consideration to plenary meeting of the General Assembly.

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum concerning this request, is annexed to the present letter. Your kind assistance in circulating the present letter and its annex as an official document of the General Assembly would be most appreciated.

The Government of Papua New Guinea is convinced that, in an increasingly interdependent world, the likely costs of implementing the proposal cannot compare with the burden of continuing failure to pay due attention to: (a) difficulties, (b) options which might be employed, and (c) the need for action, in widening opportunity and participation in the economies, particularly for citizens of developing countries.

(Signed) Renagi R. LOHIA, OBE
Ambassador/Permanent representative

ANNEX

Explanatory memorandum

PROPOSED UNITED NATIONS INITIATIVE ON OPPORTUNITY AND PARTICIPATION

1. Current trends in national economies, regional economic co-operation and international economic relations combine to make it both timely and urgent for the United Nations to commission a comprehensive, systematic and thorough study of opportunity and participation, with particular reference to the economies of developing countries.

2. The case for proceeding with the proposal now is underlined by the reality that - even after several decades of United Nations Resolutions, expert studies, special international conferences, including North-South dialogue, and plans of action-

   (a) many developing countries are experiencing static or declining rates of economic growth; while

   (b) many of the most important, powerful and widespread difficulties experienced in securing opportunities for economic participation by individuals, groups and firms in developing countries remain largely unattended.

3. In an increasingly interdependent world, the proposal is all the more compelling because of the vital implications that the issues with which it is intended to deal would have for efforts to:

   (a) reduce tensions between nations, foster co-operation within and between regions, and secure global peace;

   (b) bring about development which is environmentally sustainable and socially responsible; and

   (c) ensure that basic human needs are met.

4. Intended to focus on difficulties which lie in the way of creating, maintaining, consolidating, diversifying and expanding opportunities for economic participation within developing countries, the proposed study has immediate relevance - and the resulting report should make a direct contribution - to:

   (a) preparation of the proposed United Nations Agenda for Development; and

   (b) current discussions concerning the appropriate role of government in national, regional and international economic life, both in theory and practice - as well as the changes actually occurring in the scope and nature of government intervention.

BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSED STUDY

5. While current, widely-held economic theories, policies and strategies place increasing emphasis on individuals, groups and firms realising opportunities for economic participation for themselves, experience in many developing countries suggests that, in practice, they often have great - and even growing difficulty - in doing so.

6. Relevant factors include:

   (a) continuation - and growth - of both tariff and non-tariff barriers to international trade, including established commercial connections and communications links;

   (b) increasing competition - and openings - for private overseas investment and loans on commercial terms; as well as

   (c) rising pressure on limited - and often declining - sources of official and non-governmental assistance on concessional terms.

7. Despite some successes in limiting population growth, demand is growing much faster than supply as far as opportunities - particularly, environmentally sustainable and socially responsible opportunities - for economic participation by the people of most developing countries are concerned.

8. The situation is, moreover, becoming rapidly worse as a result of:

(a) continuing failure to conclude the Uruguay Round of negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade - and the consequent threat of mounting economic conflict between rival trade blocs;

(b) the additional needs, openings and request for scarce investment and loan funds generated by political realignments at the end of the Cold War; and

(c) the difficulties which aid recipients are experiencing in countering the effects of "aid fatigue" in traditional donor countries, particularly when the needs of other claimants for economic restructuring, cleaning up the environment, and dealing with the effects of natural and human disasters are so pressing - and frequently reinforced by the pull of ideological, regional or other special ties.

9. The kinds of factors outlined above - which appear to arise and to affect developing countries in an international context - have been quite frequently discussed, both within the United Nations and outside.

10. But progress in dealing with their effects has been slow. Lasting success in slowing them down or reducing them has been difficult to achieve. The prospects for halting, overcoming or reversing them have seemed not only to be distant but, at times, to be receding.

11. Moreover, other factors, which have tended to receive rather less attention, also play an important - and sometimes a more important - part in limiting opportunity and participation in the economies of developing countries. They include factors which appear to affect developing countries, whether or not they arise, from within.

12. The proposed United Nations study of opportunity and participation in the economies of developing countries is intended to focus attention on such previously-neglected factors.

FOCUS AND DISTINGUISHING FEATURE OF THE PROPOSED STUDY

13. The principal focus of the proposed United Nations study is also its distinguishing feature: identification of both difficulties - and options which might be employed - in widening opportunity and participation in the economies of developing countries.

14. The kinds of issues which might be subjected to detailed examination include:

(a) lack of incentive - and all-too-often active disincentives - even for commercial firms which are willing, whether for reasons of economy or security, to allow, encourage or actively stimulate wider opportunities for participation in ownership, employment or provision of support services and supplies;

(b) failure by financial institutions to develop procedures which would enable prospective borrowers to realise otherwise promising projects by drawing on sources of security and capital which do not have - and may not be readily given - a monetary value (such as personal skills and land held under traditional title);

(c) shortcomings in legal regimes which do not recognise traditional, evolving or other particular, local forms of social organisation, or cannot cope adequately with change, including succession;

(d) inequities resulting from administrative arrangements which do not - and often cannot - ensure equitable access to vital information, advice or other kinds of assistance;

(e) strategies which are inadequate or inappropriate to stated objectives or to the capacity of targeted populations to respond; and

(f) policies which do not take sufficient account of the diverse values, skills and other resources of different segments of individual nations.

The factors outlined are often embodied in laws, practices and institutions imposed, inherited or otherwise imported from other countries without due consideration of their appropriateness to local conditions.

15. In countries with land, seas or other natural resources which still have substantial unrealised potential, many of the factors outlined in Paragraph 14 above apply with particular force to opportunity and participation by citizens in almost every aspect of development, ownership, control, management, employment, service and supply of natural resource projects.

16. The shortage - or absence - of opportunities to acquire education, training and experience appropriate to effective participation in the economies of developing countries is often important too.

17. The factors which limit opportunity and participation by citizens in the economies of developing countries arise from the actions - and inaction - of diverse agencies, including elements in:

(a) the private sector;

(b) government at all levels - national, local and (where appropriate) intermediate; and

(c) regional and wider inter-governmental organisations.

18. Even bodies established with the specific purpose of promoting economic development may be partly responsible - for example, when foreign aid donors or lenders fail to ensure that local contractors or contractors from other developing countries can compete fairly to undertake projects (while respect for the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of states may be cited in justification of what does - or does not - occur, it is not always an adequate explanation).

19. The proposed United Nations study is intended both to identify and to focus attention on:

(a) underlying causes; as well as

(b) possible remedies.

20. While focusing on the particular circumstances of developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America (including, respectively, the Middle East, the South Pacific and the Caribbean), the report which results should draw on experiences - and be relevant to significant, current concerns - in advanced industrial and industrialising countries where efforts are being made to increase economic opportunity and participation: in Europe, North America, Asia and elsewhere.

21. The issues and options identified are likely to be especially pertinent in any country where public expenditures on arms are being reduced - and options for wider economic opportunity and participation are being sought.

THE PROPOSAL ITSELF

22. The proposal itself is-

- for the appointment of a small panel of distinguished, expert and experienced persons, broadly representative of the international community,

- to prepare a comprehensive, systematic and thorough report in time for consideration during the fiftieth session of the United Nations General Assembly,

- on difficulties which have been encountered - and options which might be employed - in widening opportunity and participation in the economies of developing countries.

23. The study should be multi-disciplinary in character, identifying issues, problems and possible options in law, economics and banking, public policy and administration, as well as other fields.

24. While drawing on appropriate scholarly and other insights, the report should pay particular attention to practical experiences and options.

25. The project should support and complement - not duplicate or rival - the proposed Agenda for Development being prepared by the United Nations Secretary-General.

26. It should facilitate exchanges of experiences and ideas.

27. The panel of distinguished, expert and experienced persons responsible for producing the report should be established - with terms of reference approved - by Resolution of the United Nations General Assembly.

28. The Secretary-General should report to the General Assembly, at intervals of not more than twelve months, on progress being made in implementation of the Resolution.

CONTEXT AND SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSAL

29. Like their counterparts in other developing countries, the people and Government of Papua New Guinea, on whose behalf the proposal was first raised during the General Debate of the Forty-Seventh United Nations General Assembly, have firsthand experience of the difficulties which limit economic opportunity and participation.

30. They are aware - and appreciative - of the work being carried out by the United Nations, particularly in the context of the Fourth United Nations Development Decade and preparation of the proposed Agenda for Development, to identify, publicise and deal with the international aspects.

31. They are also aware - and appreciative - of the contributions being made by specialised agencies of the United Nations, global financial and banking institutions, as well as participants in the Lome Convention, the Commonwealth and a wide variety of regional organisations, including the South Pacific Forum, the Association of South East Asian Nations, the Organisation for African Unity and the Organisation of American States.

32. They are conscious of, grateful for, and actively involved in, efforts being made by the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of Seventy-Seven to draw the world's attention to the particular problems of developing countries, and to co-operating in order to bring about change.

33. They believe that it is particularly appropriate to seek support for the establishment of a panel to report on opportunity and participation in the economies of developing countries during the year:

- immediately following the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

- proclaimed as the International Year of Indigenous Peoples, and

- preceding the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Social Development, the International Conference on Population and Development, and the Global Conference on Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

34. They, therefore, respectfully seek support from members of the United Nations for inclusion of the proposal as an item in the agenda for the Forty-Eighth United Nations General Assembly.

35. Conscious of the acute financial situation of the United Nations, they also respectively request other members to join them in ensuring that the proposal is provided with the modest funding, staffing and other resources needed for implementation.

36. They do so believing that the proposed report is likely to be of value not only in developing countries but in any country or body where economic opportunity and participation are major, current concerns, including:

(a) countries in Europe, North America, Asia and elsewhere, which are-

- industrialised,
- industrialising, or
- undergoing significant economic reform, and

(b) government, inter-governmental and non-government organisations interested in development issues and engaged in North-South or South-South co-operation, including transfers to developing countries of aid and technical assistance, loans and/or investment funds.

37. They are convinced that, in an increasingly interdependent world, the likely costs of implementing the proposal cannot compare with the burden of continuing failure to pay due attention to-

- difficulties,
- options which might be employed, and
- the need for action,

in widening opportunity and participation in the economies, particularly for citizens, of developing countries.

20 April 1993